

1999

Town of Haverhill

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UMass Amherst Center Economic Development, "Town of Haverhill" (1999). *Center for Economic Development Technical Reports*. 48.
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HAVERHILL

Haverhill, settled in 1650, is a city of 52,000 that has maintained characteristics of hometowns throughout New England. Found within Haverhill is a revitalized business district which, residents note, includes one of the finest Queen Anne style industrial streetscapes in America. An established restaurant district and a proliferation of specialty shops are all within walking distance of each other, while surrounding neighborhoods reflect interesting architectural diversity, displaying Victorian splendor, blue-collar housing and early 20th century middle class avenues. These residential neighborhoods display Haverhill's prominence in the shoe industry as well as its wealth of ethnic heritage and tradition. A rural village built around Bradford Common, a riverfront area where shipbuilding was carried on, is also part of the city's architectural resources.

Community Assets

The following assets were determined based on interviews with town residents, the 1998-2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan, and the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce.

- 1) The City's proximity to the Merrimack River and the ocean.
- 2) The feeling that Bradford is still part of the City of Haverhill.
- 3) An easily accessible City government, in that they are quick to respond to the needs of the community.
- 4) The library is great because of its resources and the residents.
- 5) The local colleges provide exposure to the arts, higher education, new ideas, etc.
- 6) The Haverhill Trails Committee is dedicated to preserving and obtaining active and passive recreational and open space lands.
- 7) The numerous (over 70) religious venues (churches, temples, etc.).
- 8) The Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce allows the towns and residents to learn from each other, work to create a stronger region, and establish the assets of their own communities.
- 9) Haverhill is well known for being the home of poet, abolitionist and newspaper editor John Greenleaf Whittier.
- 10) Bob Montana, creator of the Archie comic books, is said to have based many of his characters on friends from Haverhill high school.
- 11) The City encourages economic development and provides resources for economic development.
- 12) The residents are devoted and friendly which is reinforced by their involvement in various community agencies or volunteer organizations.

General

Established:	1640 (Town), 1870 (City)
Type of Community:	Urbanized Center (DOR), Central City (MVPC)
Total Land Area:	Approximately 33.33 square miles or 22,810 acres (MVPC)
Location:	31 miles north of Boston, 31 miles from Manchester, NH (DHCD)
Population per Square Mile:	1,629 (1999 DOR)
Population:	53,952 (DOR, 1996 Population)
Population Projections:	1980 – 46,865 persons (MISER) 1990 – 51,418 persons (MISER) 2000 – 56,921 persons (MISER) 2010 – 62,183 persons (MISER)
Build-Out Projection:	None
Median Age:	32.3 (1990 U.S. Census)

Economic Data

The economy in the Greater Haverhill area continues to flourish. Companies are stronger than ever in 1999. Two factors have helped maintain a strong economy in Haverhill. The first is the excellent setting and resources of the city. The second is an excellent support system for businesses. The Ward Hill Industrial Park is a mecca of highly innovative manufacturing and service companies. The city of Haverhill is business friendly. You'll often hear that comment, unsolicited, from all types of businesses with the city. In addition, there are over 120 businesses within the city's downtown.

Labor Force

1990 Average Time to Work:	22.4 minutes (1990 US Census)
1998 Labor Force:	28,631, 27,398 Employment (1999 DET)
1998 Unemployment Rate:	4.3%, State Average 3.3% (1999 DET)
1997 Wages (DET):	Total annual payroll \$518M, average annual payroll \$27,910
1997 Employment:	1,148 establishments, employing 18,575 persons.

# of Persons <u>Employed</u>	<u>Type of Establishment</u>	Percentage <u>of Total</u>
66	Agriculture	0.4%
3,200	Government	17.2%
587	Construction	3.2%
3,609	Manufacturing	19.4%
643	TCPU (Transportation, Communication, Public Utilities)	3.5%
4,329	Trade	23.3%
621	FIRE (Finance, Insurance, Real Estate)	3.3%
5,520	Services	29.7%
Total:		100.0%

Largest Employers (www.haverhill.com/employement)

1. Northern Essex Community College, 900 full/part-time
2. DeMoulas/Market Basket, 450 full/part-time
3. C.R. Bard, Inc., 300 full/part-time
4. Alternate Circuit Tech, Inc., 228 full/part-time
5. Vernon Plastics, 218 full/part-time

1990 Income (US Census)

Per Capita Income: \$15,464, State Rank 223
 Median Household Income: \$36,945, State Rank 213

FY 99 Tax Levy and Assessed Value (1999 DOR)

<u>Tax Classification</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>	<u>Assessed Value</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Residential	\$16.54	\$32,649,076	\$1,973,946,571	82.7%
Open Space	\$16.54	\$ 20,685	\$ 1,250,600	0.0%
Commercial	\$27.69	\$5,484,055	\$198,051,817	8.3%
Industrial	\$27.69	\$3,306,970	\$119,428,310	5.0%
Personal Property	\$27.69	<u>\$2,589,194</u>	<u>\$ 93,506,480</u>	<u>4.0%</u>
Total:		\$44,049,980	\$2,386,183,778	100.0%

Education (DOE)

Educational Attainment: 78.8% High School Graduate or Higher (1990 US Census)
 19.9% Bachelor's Degree or Higher (1990 US Census)

Haverhill School District:

- Elementary

Early Childhood Center, grades -K

Bartlett, grades 1-4

Burnham Elementary, grades 1-4

Cogswell, grades 1-4

Crowell, grades 1-4

Fox, grades 1-4

Greenleaf, grades 1-4

St. James, grades 1-4

Smiley Elementary, grades 1-4

Tilton, grades 1-4

Walnut Square, grades 1-4

R. L. Wood, grades 1-4

- Middle

Caleb Dustin Hunking, grades 5-8

Dr. Paul Nettle, grades 5-8

John G. Whittier, grades 5-8

- High School

Haverhill High, grades 9-12

Other (Public) High Schools:

Whittier Regional Vocational High School, grades 9-12

Statistic for Grades 9-12:

	<u>District Average</u>	<u>State Average</u>
Number Students per Teacher (1996-7)	21.4	18.0
Percent Planning 4-year College (1996-7)	43.8%	53.4%
SAT Scores - Verbal (1998)	509	502
- Math (1998)	498	502
- Participation Rate (1998)	69%	86%
Drop-Out Rate (1996-7)	4.1%	3.4%

Colleges:

Bradford College, Northern Essex Community College

Housing

Haverhill's enviable location draws residents regularly. It's an easy commute to almost anywhere in eastern Massachusetts and the housing stock – everything from apartments and condominiums to split-level ranches and farmhouses – is attractively affordable for young professionals and young families. From its oldest neighborhoods to its newest residential developments, Haverhill has pieces from all these scenes, from Rock's Village with its maritime appeal and the farmscapes that ring the city, to the triple-deckers, the three-story buildings that housed the working classes and which still stand near the center of the city. The diversity of the neighborhoods lends a small town appeal to this city of over 53,000. At the Post Office or grocery store, people know each other by name and still have time to say hello.

Number of Housing Units:	23,931+/- (1990 US Census and MVPC Data)
Owner versus Rental-Occupied:	58.6% vs. 41.4% (1990 US Census)
Subsidized Housing Inventory:	1,494 units or 7% of all units in Town (1993 DHCD).
Public Housing Units:	440 Conventional State (1993 DHCD)
Rental Assistance:	92 State (MVRP) (1994 DHCD) 283 Federal (Section 8) (1994 DHCD)
1999 Tax Rate:	\$16.54 (Town Clerk) – 1998 State average \$16.96 (DOR)
1999 Avrg. Single-Family Tax Bill:	\$2,211 (1999 DOR)
1998 Median Sales Price:	(1999 Banker & Tradesman)
- Single-Family	\$139,000, 1,125 Single-Family Units
- Condominium	\$ 90,500, 424 Condominium Units
Jan-Feb 1999 Median Sales Price:	(1999 Banker & Tradesman)
- Single-Family	\$145,900, 133 Single-Family Units
- Condominium	\$103,550, 47 Condominium Units
House Lot Cost (2-acre):	\$50,000 to 300,000 (1999 Assessor)
Zoning:	7,500 sq.ft. minimum lot area (Zoning Bylaw)

Transportation

Haverhill has convenient access to Route 495, which quickly connects to Route 93 and 95. It also has ample retail, manufacturing and other business space, an attractive and historic downtown and quick access to the metropolitan Boston area. The Merrimack River cuts through the center of Haverhill, and the commuter could utilize the commuter rail service or take a short 30-mile drive to either Logan Airport or the Manchester, NH airport.

Miles of Roadway:	Approximately 232 (1997 Massachusetts Highway Department)
Principle Highways:	Interstate 495 and State Routes 97, 108, 110, 113 and 125.
Rail Service:	Available from Haverhill Center (travel time 63-68 minutes) or from Bradford (travel time 61-66 minutes). The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight rail service.
Bus Service:	Member of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA). The MVRTA and the Haverhill Council on Aging provide paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.
Air Service:	The Lawrence Municipal Airport located in North Andover is the closest facility. Flight Line offers van service to Logan Airport and Manchester Airport in Manchester, NH.

Natural Resources

Haverhill has eight lakes and ponds within the city limits. The Merrimack River is now dotted with marinas and the river that flows through the city is a wonderful recreational resource.

Rivers and Streams:	Merrimack River, East Meadow River, Cottles River, Camp Brook, Foote Brook, Little River, Creek Brook, Johnson's Creek, Peabody Brook, Snow's Brook, Fishing Brook, West Meadow Brook.
Water Supply:	Haverhill has 6 reservoirs and a water treatment plant. In 1998, EDA provided funding for new water lines.
Sewer:	Wastewater treatment plant (serves central core of the city).
Ponds:	3 (Peck's Pond, Chadwick Pond, Fyre's Pond)
Other Waterbodies:	Crystal Lake, Kenoza Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Lake Pentucket (Round Pond), Crescent Lake
Watersheds:	Merrimack River and Reservoirs.
ACEC's:	None (DEM)

Cultural Resources

Libraries:	Haverhill Public Library
Museums:	Haverhill Historical Society, Buttonwoods Museum
Other:	Northeast Cultural Arts Center, Scotland Hill Children's Theater, Whittier Chamber Orchestra, Winnikenni Foundation
Historic Districts:	6 Districts (17 sites) Bradford Common Historic District, Bradford Common Local Historic District, Rocks Village Historic District, Rocks Village Historic District, Washington Street Shoe District, Washington Street Shoe District
Historic Commission:	Assists in designating historic buildings and sites, and works on behalf of Historic District Commission.
Churches:	Over 70 religious venues

Open Space and Recreation (1998-2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan)

One of the central characteristics of Haverhill is that it is the most nourishing recreational center. Haverhill possesses the following recreational resources:

Cedardale Athletic Club	8 lakes and ponds
Four 18-hole golf courses	2 public swimming areas
One 9-hole golf course	Bradford Ski Slope
35 public parks	Two 18-hole miniature golf courses
24 public ball fields	9 batting cages at Cedarland
17 public tennis courts	Corporate Outing Center at Cedarland
10 public basketball courts	Winnikenni Lake Recreational Area
2 bowling alleys	Northern Essex Comm. College Athletic Complex
1 indoor ice skating rink	Bradford College Athletic Complex
Bradford Swim Club	Cornerstone Farm Riding Academy

Summary of Open Space and Recreation

Public Passive Recreation/Open Space (including watersheds)	1,187 acres
Public Active Recreation (including school facilities)	498 acres
Private Open Space	247 acres
Quasi-Public/Private Active Recreation	490 acres
TOTAL	2,422 acres

Other Town-Supported Services

Council on Aging:	Provides meals, social activities, and some transportation and medical services for those age 60 and over.
Fire and Ambulance:	Full-time staff
Police:	Full-time staff
Solid Waste:	Curbside pick up and recycling provided.
Cemeteries:	9
Board of Health	
Haverhill Housing Authority	
Hotels:	Comfort Suites and Best Western
Neighborhood Associations:	30+
Other:	Citizens Against Substance Abuse (CASA) Haverhill Chess Club Haverhill Poets Jewish War Veterans – post 52 Knights of Columbus Lions Club Masons MerrimackValley Herb Society Merrimac Woman's Club Salvation Army Sisterhood of Temple Emanu-El Sons of Italy VFW Lorraine – Post 29 VFW Post 675 YMCA YWCA AARP Boy Scouts of America Catholic Charities Center Children's Aid & Family Society Council for Children
Home Health Visiting Nurses Association	
Health Resources Center	
Association for Retarded Citizens	

Land Use (MVPC, 1991 MassGIS)

HAVERHILL

Land Use Code	Land Use Category	Acres	%
0	Undetermined	0	0.00%
1	Cropland	1,941	8.51%
2	Pasture	573	2.51%
3	Forest	8,600	37.70%
4	Wetland	503	2.21%
5	Mining	306	1.34%
6	Open Land	603	2.64%
7	Participation - Recreation	316	1.39%
8	Spectator - Recreation	195	0.85%
9	Water based recreation	12	0.05%
10	Residential Multi-Family	444	1.95%
11	Residential (< 1/4 acre lots)	2,081	9.12%
12	Residential (1/4 to 1/2 acre lots)	1,419	6.22%
13	Residential (>1/2 acre lots)	2,060	9.03%
14	Salt Wetland	0	0.00%
15	Commercial	508	2.23%
16	Industrial	413	1.81%
17	Urban Open (Parks, Cemetery)	569	2.49%
18	Transportation	595	2.61%
19	Waste Disp (landfill & sewage)	106	0.46%
20	Water	1,527	6.69%
21	Woody Perennial	39	0.17%
	Total Area (Acres)	22,810	

Total Number of Parcels: 20,165 +/- (FY 1999, Assessor)
 Number of Parcels used for Residential Purposes: 17,767 +/- (FY 1999, Assessor)

Public Safety (Massachusetts State Police, Crime Reporting Unit)

Haverhill					
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Total Crimes	2,671	3,320	3,189	2,909	2,419
Violent Crimes	305	286	318	364	272
Property Crimes	2,366	3,034	2,871	2,545	2,147

References

Contacts included the Assessor's Office, Helene Murphy (978) 374-2316, the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, and an anonymous librarian. Document sources included the 1998-2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan, DHCD Haverhill Community Profile, Town Stats by Banker & Tradesman, State Aid-Cherry Sheet FY 1999, At-A-Glance Report (3/1/99) DOR-DLS, Employment and Wages & Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment (DET), and Site Visits.